

# Potato Prints

## Description:

Children will make their own stamps and use them to create personalized wrapping paper.

## Materials:

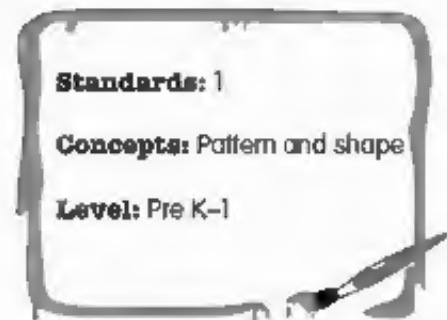
large white paper or newsprint, potatoes, smooth kitchen knives (adult assistance required), paint, sponges, plates or styrofoam trays

Optional: samples of wrapping paper, craft sticks

**Standards:** 1

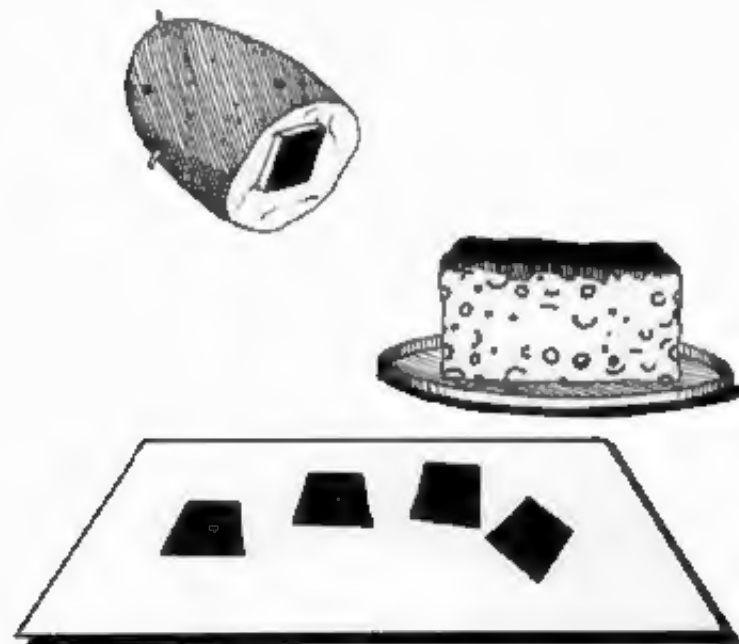
**Concepts:** Pattern and shape

**Level:** Pre K-1



## Procedure:

Look at samples of wrapping paper with your child, or find other examples of patterns in your home. Point out the patterns and talk about the shapes and colors. Your child will make wrapping paper using potatoes. Cut a potato in half and begin cutting and scooping out a design at the cut end. Ask your child to suggest a simple design (e.g., squares, diamonds, stars). You must do the cutting for the child. An older child can cut and scoop away areas of the potato with a craft stick rather than a knife. When the potatoes have been prepared, pour a little tempera paint on a sponge. Your child can then dab the potato on the sponge and stamp it on a sheet of paper. Encourage your child to organize the design in a pattern, such as rows or alternating patterns (e.g., star-square-star-square). When the paper is dry, wrap a gift with it, or use the paper to cover an empty box with a hole cut in the top. Your child can keep mementos and other cherished items in this decorative box.



## Extension:

Take another potato and make a second design. Fold an 8-1/2" x 11" paper in half and print your design on the top to make a card. Give your card to someone or attach it to a gift. Create stamped patterns with other vegetables and fruits, such as mushrooms, celery, and star fruit.

## Just for Kids:

Sometimes artists print a design when they want to repeat it over and over again. Wallpaper and gift wrap often have repeating patterns. You can create your own gift wrap by printing paper with something you find in the kitchen. Have your parents help you by cutting a potato in half and scooping out a design. Press the potato into a paint-filled sponge and then stamp it on the paper. Be careful not to slide the potato or you'll smear the paint. Repeat your design to create a pattern. When the paper is dry, wrap a present with it. If there are no birthdays or holidays coming up, wrap up a box and keep special things in it.

